

## REFERENCES

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*ASCLEPIAS OBOVATA* ELL. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) REDISCOVERED IN ARKANSAS—*Asclepias obovata* or sand milkweed is an easily overlooked and infrequently collected species of the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plains, known to occur from South Carolina to Florida and Texas. Recent collections from Ashley and Calhoun Counties in southern Arkansas prompted the senior author to check its published distribution in Woodson's 1954 monograph. One specimen is mapped from central Arkansas on the Arkansas River. However, in the list of counties from which specimens had been examined, no mention of Arkansas is made. The species is not included in Smith's (1978) atlas of the Arkansas flora.

Inquiry at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where Woodson worked, turned up a single Arkansas collection from Hazen in Prairie County, dated 1955, the year after the publication of Woodson's study. Robert Woodson threw away his card file of *Asclepias exsiccatae* after his monograph was published (W. D. Stevens, pers. comm.). Since he saw specimens from numerous herbaria, the locality of the original Arkansas material—the dot on the map—cannot presently be recovered.

On a search of the Hazen area in July of 1988, a small population of *Asclepias obovata* was located growing in the gravel of the elevated and abandoned Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad bed. Comparable sites in Monroe and St. Francis Counties to the east were investigated without success.

*Asclepias obovata* is presently known in Arkansas from ten populations in four counties. Ashley, Drew and Prairie County populations are on or adjacent to roadside remnants of tall grass prairie. (At Fountain Prairie, one of the Ashley County sites, east of Fountain Hill, within a three mile stretch of disturbed roadside, are found five relatively uncommon species of milkweeds: *A. amplexicaulis*, *A. hirtella*, *A. viridis*, *A. viridiflora*, and *A. obovata*!) Despite the prairie connection, *A. obovata* seems rather to be favoring the well drained soils of road and railroad banks. In Prairie County, plants were not observed on the relatively undisturbed Grand

Prairie remnant below the railroad. Long Prairie and Fountain Prairie, in Drew and Ashley counties, respectively, have been reduced by agricultural activities to roadside strips heavily infiltrated with ruderal species. Only in southern Ashley County and in Calhoun County, are plants to be found along sandy oak and pine wood margins, probably the species' most typical habitat on the Gulf Coastal Plain.

The following Arkansas collections of *Asclepias obovata* are deposited at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU), the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM), the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UARK), and the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO), as indicated:

Ashley Co.: R. Dale Thomas 9333 & Susan Hooks 1310, R. Dale Thomas 9335 & Susan Hooks 1339, and R. Dale Thomas 9755 (NLU); R. Dale Thomas 101,173 (UAM, UARK). Drew Co.: Sundell & Barnes 8495, 8496, 8497 (UAM). Calhoun Co.: Sundell & Etheridge 7919, Sundell, Amason & Etheridge 7953, and Sundell & Barnes 8407 (UAM). Prairie Co.: Delzie Demaree 37884 (MO) and Eric Sundell 8446 (UAM).

Although *Asclepias obovata* is inconspicuous (its flowers are greenish and its typically lateral deflexed inflorescences partially hidden under the broadly oblong leaves), it is readily identified in flower using keys in appropriate floristic manuals. Sterile or in fruit, *A. obovata* and *A. viridiflora* are easily confused but can be distinguished by pubescence: *A. obovata* follicles, stems and lower leaf surfaces are densely tomentulose, while those of *A. viridiflora* are puberulous at most. Additionally, *A. obovata* is a larger and coarser plant, reaching a height of at least 9 dm under optimal conditions.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Dr. Warren Douglas Stevens, Head of the Research Department at the Missouri Botanical Garden, for checking collections at MO and Carl Amason of Calion, Arkansas, for his invaluable help in the field in Calhoun County. Travel to Calhoun County was supported by a grant from the Arkansas Nongame Preservation Committee.—Eric Sundell, Department of Natural Sciences, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Monticello, AR 71655, U.S.A.; R. Dale Thomas, Department of Biology, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, LA 71209, U.S.A. and Susan Lee Hooks, Department of Botany and Microbiology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, U.S.A.

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*CAREX MICRODONTA* TORR. & HOOK. (CYPERACEAE) NEW TO FLORIDA—While visiting some chalky limestone glades in Gadsden County, Florida, the senior authors collected *Carex microdonta* Torr. & Hook., familiar to us from the prairies and glades of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, but apparently unreported for Florida (Ward 1968; Clewell 1985). Anderson independently found the species on these glades a year later. The full specimen citations are as follows:

FLORIDA: Gadsden Co.: common on exposed white chalk of the Chattahoochee Formation (Miocene) in chalky limestone glade (named "Chalk Glade" by local botanists) on lower northeast facing slope 0.8 mi N of Dolan Road at a point 2 mi W of FL 269, ca. 3 mi SW of Chattahoochee, SEQ, SWQ, Sec. 8, T3N, R6W, Chattahoochee 7.5' Quad., 30° 39'52" N, 84° 51'40" W, Elev. 120 ft, 10 May 1987, Orzell, Bridges, A. K. Gholson, & R. K. Godfrey 5213 (FLAS, FSU, TEX), 8 May 1988, A. K. Gholson 11968 (FSU), 13 May 1988, Anderson 11271 (FSU); open flat of slightly raised glade (named "E. B. Glade", ca. 0.2 mi ENE of "Chalk Glade"), SWQ, SEQ, Sec. 8, T3N, R6W, Chattahoochee 7.5' Quad., 30° 39'55" N, 84° 51'28" W, Elev. 130 ft, 29 Apr 1988, Anderson & J. B. Nelson 11194 (FSU).

The glades supporting *Carex microdonta* were dominated by *Schoenus nigricans* L. Other associated species at one or both sites included *Bumelia reclinata* (Michx.) Vent., *Carex granularis* Muhl., *Dichanthelium dichotomum* (L.) Gould, *Hedyotis nigricans* (Lam.) Fosb., *Juniperus silicicola* (Small) Bailey, *Polygala boykinii* Nutt., *Rhynchospora divergens* Chapm. ex M. A. Curtis, and *R. globularis* (Chapm.) Small. At Chalk Glade, *Carex microdonta* occurs in areas with generally low vegetative cover over hard chalky limestone rubble, whereas at E. B. Glade it occupies areas of shallow gravelly soil with no obvious limestone outcrops.

*Carex microdonta* is primarily a species of shallow-soil prairies in the south-central United States. Its range center is from southeastern Kansas southward through central Oklahoma to the calcareous formations of northeastern, central, and southeastern Texas. More isolated records are known from northeast Kansas (1 county), central (2) and southwestern (2) Missouri, southwestern Arkansas (4), central Louisiana (1-2), central Tennessee (1), northern Alabama (1), and the Blackbelt regions of Alabama (5) and Mississippi (3). It is perhaps most abundant in shallow soil blackland prairies on the chalky cuestas of north central and central Texas and